(c) The expenditure likely to be incurred on creation of these seven new zones is around Rs. 600 crore, including Rs. 58 crore already incurred.

(d) Some opposition has been voiced from various quarters from time to time. However, after issue of notification, there is no formal communication received from the federations. The West Bengal Government had opposed the reorganisation of Eastern Railway on the grounds of certain apprehensions like reduced size and crippling of Eastern Railway, transfer of staff, operational disadvantages and State boundary considerations.

(e) The Government does not agree with their views.

Touts in railway station complex

†416. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item captioned, "Railway Arakshan Kendra Mein Dalalon Ka Samrajya", published in Rashtriya Sahara dated 9th June, 2002, reporting about the hold of anti-social elements in the railway station complex due to negligence of the employees of the Railways and the Railway Police;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to get rid of the railway reservation centre from the touts; and

(d) the success achieved by Government through the above steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that there is a hold of anti-social elements in the Ghaziabad railway station complex due to negligence of the employees of the Railways and the Railway Police. However, the authorized travel agents and their representatives are permitted to buy tickets on behalf of the passengers.

"Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The Railway Administration has taken the following steps to tighten security in trains:—

(i) Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) is done at all levels.

(iii) Announcement through Public Address System and Closed Circuit television (CCTV) at important railway stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

(iv) RPF assistance booths are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging First Information Reports (FIRs) with Government Railway Police.

(v) Periodic high level co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police and local police are conducted to analyse the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.

(c) and (d) frequent checks are conducted in reservation offices by vigilance and commercial departments and the police against touts including Ghaziabad reservation office. In addition, during peak rush periods, the supervision is stepped up. Touts and anti-social elements apprehended are prosecuted under the relevant provisions of law and disciplinary action is taken against the railway staff if found conniving in such activities. Surprise checks are also conducted against the entry of unauthorised passengers into ladies compartments as well as unauthorised hawkers/vendors. The steps being taken by the Government at present are considered adequate.

New coaches for local trains in Mumbai

417. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any decision to procure new coaches for Mumbai local train services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether orders for procurement have been placed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, the procurement would be done?